



REMARKS

A petition for extension of time is being filed concurrently with this amendment.

The examiner's comments regarding the improper substitute specification are noted. The applicant will proceed with the specification amended as per the examiner's remarks.

Claims 1 - 6 are rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to remove the language "for putting a golf ball" and to include in the body of the claim language indicating that the regulation size golf ball recitation is only used to fix the dimensions of the marking. Claim 6 has been canceled.

Reconsideration is requested.

Claim 1 - 6 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Antonious. Additionally, claims 1, 5, and 6 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by White. Finally, claims 2 and 3 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over White. The patent to Antonious includes a raised spherical portion having substantially the same size and shape as a golf ball. Claim 1 has been amended to include the language "...equivalent to a radius of curvature of a circle having a radius extending from an approximate center point of a regulation size golf ball to a point where said straight line portion bisects said curved portion of said striking face when said golf ball is abutting said striking face." making it clear that the radius of curvature of the marking is larger than the radius of curvature of a golf ball. Using the center point of a golf ball abutting the striking face as an axis, the curved portion of the marking extends in an arc from one side of the striking face to the other, the radius of curvature of the arc being the radius extending from the axis to the point where the straight line portion of the marking intersects the curved line portion. It is believed by the applicant that this feature enables visual alignment better than traditional markings which are mostly parallel line markings. With the golf ball abutting or nearly abutting the striking face the golfer can visualize a complete circle extending from the curved portion of the marking and project a relatively wide path to the hole, the width of the path equal to the width of the "imaginary" circle. Instead of using the marking to point to the hole, the markings serve to allow the user to map out a path to the hole. This type of visualization is particularly helpful where, as is often the case, the putting

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surface is not flat. This feature is not shown or suggested by Antonious or White. In accordance with the above, it is believed that amended claim 1 is allowable over Antonious and White.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The other references cited but not relied upon are not deemed pertinent to applicant's invention as now claimed.

Claims 2 - 5 are dependent upon allowable claim 1. In accordance with the above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

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I hereby certify that this correspondence will be deposited with the United States Postal Service by First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed "Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231" on the date below.
Date: March 19, 2001

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